IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, 12, 15-18, 20 and 21 as follows:

- 1-1. (Amended) A composition, comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium:
- (1) N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol; and
- (2) hydroquinone or a hydroquinone compound which has depigmenting or lightening activity.
- 4. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.
- 5. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in an amount of 0.5 to 1 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.
- 6. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol is present in an amount of 0.01 to 5 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition, and said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.
- 7. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol is present in an amount of 0.5 to 2.5 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition, and said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in an amount of 0.5 to 1 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.
- 9. (Amended) The composition of Claim 8, wherein said vesicles are dispersed in an aqueous or oily phase comprising said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound.
 - 10. (Amended) The composition of Claim 8, wherein said hydroquinone or

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12. (Amended) A method for depigmenting and/or lightening the skin, body hair, or head hair, comprising applying to the skin, body hair and/or head hair, a composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium:

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- (1) N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol; and
- (2) hydroquinone or a hydroquinone compound which has depigmenting or lightening activity.
- 15. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in said composition in an amount of 0.1 to 2 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.
- 16. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in said composition in an amount of 0.5 to 1 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.
- 17. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol is present in an amount of 0.01 to 5 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition, and said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.
- 18. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol is present in said composition in an amount of 0.5 to 2.5 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition, and said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in said composition in an amount of 0.5 to 1 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.



^{20. (}Amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said vesicles are dispersed in an

aqueous or oily phase containing hydroquinone or a hydroquinone compound.

21. (Amended) The composition of Claim 19, wherein said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is encapsulated in said vesicles.--

Please add new Claim 23 as follows:

--23. (Newly Added) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said hydroquinone compound having depigmenting or lightening activity is a member selected from the group consisting of 2,5-dihydroxyphenyl propionic acid, the ethyl ester of 2,5-dihydroxyphenyl propionic acid; the lauryl ester of 2,5-dihydroxyphenylpropionic acid; methyl 2,5-dihydroxy-3,4-dimethylphenyl acetate; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methylphenyl acetic acid; alkyl esters of 2.5dihydroxy-4-methylphenyl acetic acid; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methylphenyl propionic acid; ethyl ester of 2,5-dihydroxy-4-phenylpropionic acid; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methylbenzoic acid; methyl ester of 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methylbenzoic acid; ethyl ester of 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methylbenzoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-ethylbenzoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methoxybenzoic acid; methyl ester of 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methoxybenzoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-ethoxybenzoic acid; 3-(2,5dihydroxy-4'-methylphenyl)-1-N-(ω-carboxydecyl)propylamide; 2,5-dihydroxy-4methylphenylbutanoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methylphenylhexanoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxy-4methoxyphenylacetic acid; methyl ester of 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methoxyphenylacetic acid; 2,5dihydroxy-4-methoxybenzylamide; methyl 2,5-dihydroxy-3-methoxyphenylacetate; 2,5dihydroxy-3-methoxyphenylpentadecylic acid; methyl ester of 2,5-dihydroxy-3methoxyphenylpentadecylic acid; 2,5-dihydroxyphenylbutanoic acid; methyl ester of 2,5dihydroxyphenylbutanoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxyphenylbutylamide; 2,5dihydroxyphenylpentanoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxyphenylhexanoic acid; 2,5dihydroxyphenyloctanoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxyphenyldecylic acid; methyl ester of 2,5-